

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02254 090749Z

53

ACTION NEA-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /007 W

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R 090701Z OCT 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1661

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 2254

FOR NEA/EX JONES FROM MCCORMICK

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: AFSP SY

SUBJ: AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE

1. THE ONLY INSURANCE COMPANY IN SYRIA IS THE GOVERNMENT OPERATED INSURANCE COMPANY OF SYRIA. ALL AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE PREMIUMS ARE BASED ON THE LOCAL VALUE OF THE CAR WHICH INCLUDES AN EXTREMELY HIGH CUSTOMS TAG. A CAR VALUED AT DOLS 5,000 IN THE U.S. IS VALUED AT DOLS 15,000 LOCALLY WHICH IN TURN PUSHES THE PREMIUM COST TO AN UNREALISTIC LEVEL.

2. ONE WAY AROUND THIS MIGHT BE FOR CAR OWNERS TO PURCHASE ONLY THE MANDATORY INSURANCE LOCALLY AND PURCHASE THEIR ELECTIVE COVERAGES SUCH AS COMPREHENSIVE FROM U.S. OR FOREIGN COMPANIES.

3. MY CAR HAS JUST ARRIVED AND PERHAPS THIS WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO SEE WHAT CAN BE DONE. WOULD YOU CALL THE UNITED SERVICES AUTOMOBILE ASSOCIATION IN SAN ANTONIO TEXAS (512-824-9011 OR 512-227-1206) AND ASK THE AUTOMOBILE DEPARTMENT IF POLICY NUMBER 084-20-85-01 ISSUED IN THE NAME OF FRANCIS P. MCCORMICK COULD BE AMENDED TO PROVIDE COVERAGE IN SYRIA AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA UNDER COVERAGES "B", "C", "D", "U-1", "E" IN THE POLICY. EXPLAIN THAT COMPULSORY INSURANCE WOULD BE PURCHASED FROM THE SYRIAN INSURANCE COMPANY.

4. I AM WRITING TO THE COMPANY TODAY BUT BECAUSE MAIL FROM HERE IS SLOW I AM AFRAID I WOULD NOT GET AN ANSWER FOR TWO

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WEEKS. THE CAR SHOULD BE READY FOR PICK-UP NEXT WEEK.

5. THE ANSWER YOU GET FROM THE UNITED SERVICES WILL BE OF
INTEREST TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE STAFF ESPECIALLY THE NEW
ARRIVALS WHO WILL SOON FACE THE PROBLEM OF BUYING AUTOMOBILE
INSURANCE.

6. APPRECIATE A TELEGRAPHIC REPLY.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 OCT 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974DAMASC02254
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740286-0675
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741061/aaaabzsp.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 08 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <08 APR 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <05 FEB 2003 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUTOMOBILE INSURANCE
TAGS: AFSP, SY
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005